



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD NOTES

Volume 12, No. 5 Report of the October 6-7, 2004, Regular Meeting

BOARD GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO 704 KAR 7:150, SECONDARY GED PROGRAM

At the October 6-7, 2004, Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the Board gave final approval to 704 KAR 7:150, Secondary GED Program. This regulation is intended to implement HB178 enacted by the 2004 Kentucky General Assembly, which allows school districts the option to offer a secondary GED program to struggling students, who as Curriculum Committee Chair Dorie Combs characterized it, "... are on their way out the door".

To enter the program, a student must be at least 16 and at least two grades behind (as measured by Carnegie Units) the cohort group the student entered high school with and has earned at least four credits toward graduation. The secondary GED program will allow support services to continue for these students who would drop out if the program was not available.

In order for Kentucky schools to offer this program, a state application meeting the program criteria required by the GED Testing Service (GEDTS) must be approved by that organization. Department of Education staff has worked with GEDTS in preparing the application and expects Kentucky's application to successfully proceed through the approval process.

A public hearing on this regulation will be held on November 29, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the State Board Room, 1st Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. It will then proceed through the legislative committee review process before going into effect.

For more information on 704 KAR 7:150, contact Jennifer Carroll at (502) 564-4772 or via email at jscarrol@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO ITS WRITING FOCUS GROUP TO SHAPE THEIR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the end of July 2004, a Writing Focus Group (composed of Kentucky teachers, instructional supervisors, district assessment coordinators, principals, higher education faculty, curriculum supervisors, school-based writing consultants, a library media specialist and the president of the state PTA) has been working to recommend options for the Kentucky Board of Education relative to the content and format of Kentucky's writing assessment for 2007 and beyond. The goal is for the group to make final recommendations to the Board at its December 8-9, 2004, meeting.

At the October 6-7 state board meeting, the Board considered eight different options for possible configuration of the writing assessment from the Writing Focus Group. From their deliberations, some of the points of consensus that were reached to help the Writing Focus Group narrow the scope of their work and finalize its recommendations are as follows:

- Maintain a writing portfolio/collection of writing over time, on-demand writing assessment and multiple-choice assessment for both assessment and accountability purposes.
- Account for writing at more grade levels to decrease the perception that writing is only important in the assessed years and increase writing instruction to students in all grades.
- Retain a writing portfolio for both assessment and accountability, if improvements are implemented.
- Provide more opportunities for analytical writing at the high school level and possibly as a choice at the middle school level.
- Assess grammar and mechanics in a visible manner as part of the test.
- Include students responding to text as part of the on-demand writing component. Consider continuing to assess writing authentically in the context of real world applications.
- Maintain the current overall weight for writing but consider decreasing the weight of portfolios and increasing the weight of on-demand writing.
- Move on-demand writing out of the assessment window or place it at the beginning of the assessment window. Maintain the current practice of completing the on-demand writing component within one day.
- Continue to explore a combination of regional scoring and school-based scoring by Kentucky teachers.

- Explore models for both holistic scoring and analytical scoring.
- Consider models that provide teachers and students with instructional feedback and diagnostic information.
- Expand the audit process to include instructional implications and consequences for teachers.
- Maintain a working folder in primary with pieces analyzed and assessed at the classroom level for instructional purposes and student accountability.
- Strengthen the Code of Ethics to target inappropriate practices.
- Develop a comprehensive and systemic approach for professional development for teachers and instructional leaders.

The Writing Focus Group meets again on October 20 and feedback from this session will come back to the Board at its November 3rd meeting. Final action on the writing assessment issues is scheduled to occur at the December 8-9, 2004, meeting.

For more information on the writing assessment work, contact Starr Lewis at (502) 564-9850 or via email at slewis@kde.state.ky.us.

STATE TREASURER JONATHAN MILLER ADDRESSES BOARD ON EDUCATION-RELATED PROGRAMS

At the October 6-7 meeting, State Treasurer Jonathan Miller addressed the Board on the following education-related programs asking for the Board's promotion of and support for these programs:

- Enriching Kentucky! - This initiative is designed to protect taxpayers and promote opportunity for all Kentuckians. The effort focuses on increasing the financial literacy of citizens and addressing issues of concern to Kentucky families, like making college more affordable, being able to retire with financial security and cracking down on predatory lenders and aggressive credit card companies.
- Cradle to College Commission - The commission is charged to help reshape the current financial aid structure to open the doors of higher education for all Kentucky students. Based on the idea that every student who benefits from the program will be required to "pay back" in the form of community service, the Commission is trying to provide a "hand up" rather than just a "hand-out".
- Kentucky's Affordable Prepaid Tuition Plan (KAPT) - This plan is an effective vehicle for families to save for college tuition. Enrollment in KAPT was reopened for the period of August 23 to December 13, 2004.

- Credit Card Debt of Young Adult Children - To help with this growing epidemic, a two-pronged approach is recommended: educate Kentucky students on the issue and regulate the marketing tactics of credit card companies on college campuses. Treasurer Miller is working with college presidents across the state to require credit card companies to agree to a code of conduct before being allowed to solicit applications from college students, and he is advocating mandatory financial education as part of freshmen orientation. Moreover, Miller has partnered with over 100 high schools and the Center for Credit Card Education to introduce credit card curriculum to high school students.
- Statewide “Women and Money” Seminars - These are free, one-day events designed to connect women and girls with experts on topics ranging from budgeting to retirement planning, to homeownership and the importance of healthy self-esteem. With women earning only 75.5 cents for every dollar men earn, it is crucial to try and level the playing field and empower women to take charge of their financial health.
- Reform of Federal Financial Markets - Treasurer Miller has joined with his colleagues across the country to demand reform of corporate practices that hurt the economy and jeopardize pensions. Additionally, he has called for stronger shareholder input on executive salaries and membership on the corporate boards of directors.

For more information on these initiatives, contact Jonathan Miller, Kentucky State Treasurer, at (502) 564-4722 or via email at jonathan.miller@ky.gov.

HELEN MOUNTJOY HONORED AT RECEPTION

Helen W. Mountjoy was honored for her outstanding six-year term as Kentucky Board of Education chair at a reception sponsored by the Partnership for Kentucky Schools, the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky Department of Education on the evening of October 6. Former state board members, legislators, colleagues and friends gathered at Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort to thank Ms. Mountjoy for her tremendous leadership of the Board during her term as chair.

Joe Kelly, Vice President at Columbia Gas and former Kentucky Board of Education chair, served as master of ceremonies during a brief recognition ceremony at which remarks were made by Commissioner Gene Wilhoit, Kentucky Board of Education Chair Keith Travis, Partnership for Kentucky Schools Director Carolyn Jones, Representative Jody Richards, Representative Frank Rasche, Senator Lindy Casebier, Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland and Former State Board Member Martha Dell Sanders.

For more information on the event, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at mmiller@kde.state.ky.us.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the September 7, 2004, and August 11-12, 2004, regular meetings
- 2004-2005 Local District Tax Rates Levied (with the exception of Edmonson County)
- District Facility Plans for Green and Lincoln Counties and Erlanger-Elsmere Independent
- 702 KAR 1:001, Implementation Guidelines, Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual (Final)
- Coordinated School Health Resolution
- Request by the Jefferson County Board of Education to use an Alternative Formula to allocate funds to school councils in 2005-06
- 2005 Legislative Agenda
- Commissioner Gene Wilhoit's evaluation
- 2% increase added to Commissioner Wilhoit's base salary, effective October 1, 2004

ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE OCTOBER 6-7, 2004, MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- Update on the Facilities Planning Committees for the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf
- KDE Employment Report
- On-line testing and In-state scoring
- Reading First Update: Monitoring implementation of Reading First
- Annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education regarding the Early Reading Incentive Grant Program
- Annual report from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development
- 704 KAR 7:120, Home/Hospital Instruction
- Update on deficit and watch-list districts and discussion with Jackson County officials on the district's financial situation
- Annual "State of the Union" report by the Kentucky Educational Television as required by the "Points of Understanding Between KDE/KET" agreement

KBE MEETING DATES 2004

<u>2004</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 3, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort
December 8-9, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort

KBE MEETING DATES 2005

<u>2005</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 5, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 2-3, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 6-7, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 17-18, 2005	KBE retreat and preliminary budget discussion	*TBD
June 8-9, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2005	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 14, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 2, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort

KBE MEETING DATES 2006

<u>2006</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 4, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 1-2, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 5-6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 10-11, 2006	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 7-8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2006	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 1, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at mmiller@kde.state.ky.us or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 or via email at spalmer@kde.state.ky.us.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the October 6-7, 2004, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky

Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Coordinator at (502) 564-3141.

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